

release substrate;

wherein the trailing edge is distal to the graspable means of the releasably affixed release substrate;

wherein the leading edge contact area tacks the leading edge to the interior surface of the applicator substrate;

wherein the trailing edge contact area tacks the trailing edge to the interior surface of the applicator substrate; and

wherein the strength of the first peel bond is greater than the strength of the second peel bond.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application.

In the Specification:

In the specification, at page 1, line 1, in the title, "APPLICATION" should read --APPLICATOR--.

In the specification, at page 3, lines 31 and 33; page 4, lines 2 and 10; page 5, line 7; page 6 lines 17 and 26; page 8 lines 7 and 8; the number "48" should read --49--.

In the specification, at page 4, line 8, the number "36" should read --49--.

In the specification, at page 6, line 27, the term "leading edge 47" should read --trailing edge 47-- and at line 11 the number "1 cm²" should read --.1 cm²--.

In the specification, at page 7, line 10, the number "46" should read --41--.

In the specification, at page 8, line 7, the number "48" should read --49-- and at line 8, the number "48" should read --49--.

In the Claims:

In the claims, Claim 1, the term "of the patch" should read --of the applicator substrate--. Support for this amendment may be found *inter alia* in the specification, as originally filed at page 4, lines 10-11. Also in Claim 1, the term "interior" should read --upper--. Support for this amendment may be found *inter alia* in the specification, as originally filed at page 4, lines 23-24.

In the claims, Claim 4, the term "interior" should read --upper--, in both instances. Support for this amendment may be found *inter alia* in the specification, as originally filed at page 4, lines 23-24.

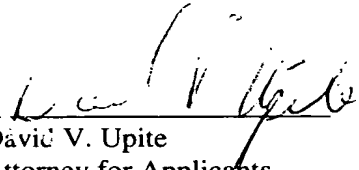
Formal drawings are enclosed herein.

Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

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Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

In the Title, at page 1, line 1 should be amended as follows:

~~APPLICATION~~APPLICATOR DEVICES

The paragraph beginning at page 3, line 26 has been amended as follows:

FIGS. 1 and 2 illustrate a first embodiment of the invention. FIG. 1 is an exploded view while FIG. 2 is a top plan view. A laminar application device 20 of the present invention comprises a substantially planar applicator substrate 32, an interposed substantially planar patch 44, and a substantially planar release substrate 24. The applicator substrate 32 comprises a graspable tab 36 extending outwardly therefrom. The applicator substrate 32 also comprises an interior surface 489. The interior surface 489 of the applicator substrate 32 comprises an adhesive means that is bonded, coated, formed, laminated, or otherwise applied to the interior surface 489 of the applicator substrate 32 to comprise an adhesive area 40. The adhesive area 40 shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 extends about 40% of the interior surface 489 but does not extend to the tab 36 of the applicator substrate 32. Preferably the adhesive area extends about 1% to about 95%, more preferably about 20% to about 60%.

The paragraph beginning at page 4, line 5 have been amended as follows:

Still referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, the device 20 further comprises a substantially planar patch 44 interposed between the applicator substrate 32 and release substrate 24. The patch 44 comprises a first surface 56 and a second surface 60. The adhesive area 40 partially underlies and releasably adheres the patch 44 to the interior surface 3649 of the applicator substrate 32. The adhesive area 40 also releasably adheres the release substrate 24. The first surface 56 of the patch 44 is releasably affixed to the interior surface 489 of the applicator substrate 32 by the adhesive means (having an adhesive area 40), thereby comprising a first peel bond, and thereby forming an applicator substrate/patch combination 95 (hereinafter "combination"). As used herein, "peel bond" means a bond formed between two surfaces adhered to each other as measured by a bond force. As used herein, "bond force," means the amount of force necessary to separate the two surfaces from each other thereby measuring the strength of the bond. Thus, if the strength of a first peel bond is greater than the strength of a second peel bond, a greater bond force is necessary to separate the surfaces comprising the first bond as compared to the surfaces comprising the second peel bond.

The paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3 has been amended as follows:

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, the device **20** includes a release substrate **24** comprising a graspable tab **28** extending outwardly therefrom. The release substrate **24** comprises an interior surface **68** that is releasably affixed to the upper surface of the combination **95** thereby comprising a second peel bond. The adhesive means of the second surface **60** the patch **44**, or the adhesive means of the interior surface **489** of the applicator substrate **32**, or a combination thereof, releasably adheres the release substrate **24** to the combination **95**. Preferably when the release substrate **24** is releasably affixed to the combination **95**, the interposed patch **44** is enclosed between the applicator substrate **32** and the release substrate **24** thereby comprising a closed container for the patch **44**.

The paragraph beginning at page 6, line 16 have been amended as follows:

The leading edge contact area **41** tacks the leading edge of the patch **46** to the interior surface **489** of the applicator substrate **32** when the release substrate **24** is removed from the combination **95**. Thus, the leading edge of the patch **46** is the part of the circumferential edge **45** of the patch **44** that is tacked by the adhesive contact area, and that is first exposed as a user removes the release substrate **24** from the combination. The leading edge **46** need not be continuous with the leading edge contact area **41** (as shown in the first embodiment of the present invention). Preferably the leading edge **46** comprises about 1% to about 45%, more preferably about 10% to about 30% of the total circumferential lateral edge **45** of the patch **44**.

The paragraph beginning at page 6, line 25 have been amended as follows:

Similarly, the trailing edge contact area **42** tacks the trailing edge **47** to the interior surface **489** of the applicator substrate **32** when the release substrate **24** is removed from the combination **95**. The ~~leading~~trailing edge **47** need not be continuous with the trailing edge contact area **42** (as shown in the first embodiment of the present invention). Preferably the trailing edge **47** comprises preferably about 1% to about 50%, more preferably about 10% to about 35% of the total circumferential lateral edge **45** of the patch **44**. In the first embodiment of the invention, the leading edge **46** of the patch is diagonal to the trailing

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 7 has been amended as follows:

By tacking the leading edge **46** and the trailing edge **47**, the adhesive contact area facilitates a patch **44** being applied to a target surface without the patch **44** curling upon itself and without the user unnecessarily touching the patch **44**. Preferably the leading edge contact area

461 comprises an area of . 1 cm² to 4000 cm², more preferably .4 cm² to 2 cm². Preferably the trailing edge contact area **42** comprises an area of .1 cm² to 4500 cm², more preferably .4 cm² to 2.5 cm².

The paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1 has been amended as follows:

To this end, the present invention provides increased bond strength ratios between the three bonds thereby enhancing the performance of the device; providing a greater range of operable adhesive types; providing a greater range of operable patch sizes; providing greater tolerance to design modifications; and requiring less overall adhesive to be utilized. In turn, utilizing less adhesive provides for savings in manufacturing costs, diminishing the amount of active that is able to diffuse from the patch **44** to the adhesive of the interior surface **489** of the applicator substrate **32**, and diminishing the amount of Pextractables from the adhesive of the interior surface **489** to the patch **44**.

In the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A laminar application device for applying an interposed patch to a target surface, comprising:

a substantially planar applicator substrate comprising a graspable tab extending outwardly therefrom; wherein the applicator substrate comprises an interior surface the substantially planar patch comprising a first surface and a second surface and a substantially planar release substrate comprising a graspable tab extending outwardly therefrom; wherein the release substrate comprises an interior surface;

wherein the interior surface of the applicator substrate comprises an adhesive means;

wherein the second surface of the patch comprises an adhesive means;

wherein the adhesive means of the interior surface of the applicator substrate releasably affixes the first surface of the patch to the interior surface ~~of the patch~~ of the applicator substrate thereby comprising a first peel bond and thereby forming an applicator substrate/patch combination comprising an ~~interior~~ upper surface;

wherein the release substrate is releasably affixed to the upper surface of the combination thereby comprising a second peel bond and wherein the tab of the release substrate is offset laterally from the combination;

wherein the strength of the first peel bond is greater than the strength of the second peel bond strength; and

wherein the strength of an adhesive bond between the adhesive means of the second surface of the patch and a target surface is greater than the strength of the first peel bond.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Once Amended) A laminar application device for applying an interposed patch to a target surface, comprising:

a substantially planar applicator substrate comprising a graspable means; wherein the applicator substrate comprises an interior surface; the substantially planar patch comprising a first surface and a second surface; and a substantially planar release substrate comprising a graspable means; wherein the release substrate comprises an interior surface;

wherein the interior surface of the applicator substrate comprises an adhesive means;

wherein the second surface of the patch comprising an adhesive means;

wherein the adhesive means of the interior surface of the applicator substrate releasably affixes the first surface of the patch thereby comprising a first peel bond and thereby forming an applicator substrate/patch combination comprising an ~~interior~~upper surface;

wherein the release substrate is releasably affixed to the ~~interior~~upper surface of the combination thereby comprising a second peel bond;

wherein the adhesive means of the interior surface of the applicator substrate comprises

an adhesive area comprising an adhesive contact area;

wherein the adhesive contact area has a leading edge contact area and a trailing edge contact area;

wherein the patch comprises a circumferential lateral edge wherein the circumferential lateral edge has a leading edge a trailing edge; and a non-securing edge;

wherein the leading edge is proximate to the graspable means of the releasably affixed release substrate;

wherein the trailing edge is distal to the graspable means of the releasably affixed release substrate;

wherein the leading edge contact area tacks the leading edge to the interior surface of the applicator substrate;

wherein the trailing edge contact area tacks the trailing edge to the interior surface of the applicator substrate; and

wherein the strength of the first peel bond is greater than the strength of the second peel bond.